

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(g) as allegedly being unpatentable over the count of Interference No. 104570. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner states that

The outcome of Interference No. 104570 has a material bearing on the patentability of the claims in this application. Prosecution of this application remains SUSPENDED pending a final decision of the interference, or 6 months, whichever is sooner.

(Paper No. 24)

Applicant respectfully points out the Interference 104570 is now complete and that the outcome of Interference No. 104570 was favorable to the Applicant. It is the Applicant's Representative's understanding, from her telephone conversation with Examiner Joseph Woitach on August 3, 2004, that the above captioned case has been removed from suspension. In light of the favorable outcome of Interference No. 104570,

the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(g) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Communication and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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